

# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Rural District of South Molton

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FOR THE YEAR

1969



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**RURAL DISTRICT OF SOUTH MOLTON**

**Telephone No.**

**South Molton 2117**

**Public Health Department**

**8 East Street**

**South Molton**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND THE**

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**E. WILLIAMS**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.**

**L. W. EVES**

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

**M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.**

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the South Molton Rural  
District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on  
the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural  
District of South Molton for the year 1969.

For 1969 the total number of births was 127 as  
compared with 162 in 1968. Deaths increased from 158 to  
173.

Illegitimate births numbered 8 which as a  
percentage of the total live births was 6. The  
illegitimate live births as a percentage of all live  
births for England and Wales was 8. There were 2 infant  
deaths under the age of 1 year, one died due to birth  
injury and the other died as a result of pneumonia. Over  
51% of the deaths occurred at the age of 75 years and  
over. The majority of deaths (65) were due to heart  
complaints - this being the principle cause of death.  
Deaths from chest infection such as influenza,  
bronchitis and pneumonia totalled 19. Lung cancer  
deaths increased from 4 to 5. There being 2 deaths from  
lung cancer in females in the 45 - 54 year age group.  
Eight infectious disease notifications were received  
during the year, there being 5 measles and 3 whooping  
coughs. No Pulmonary Tuberculosis was reported.

Salmonella infection amongst animals on 25 farms  
were reported by the Animal Health Division of the  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In spite of the  
prevalence of this organism amongst cattle no cases of  
salmonella infection was reported. No human cases of  
undulant fever were reported and no milk samples taken  
were positive for Brucella Abortus.

I am,

Yours faithfully,  
E. WILLIAMS.

STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

D. J. BYRON, M.A.P.H.I.,

J. M. W. RANDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,  
Additional Public Health Inspectors



# GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	11,210
Extracts from Vital Statistics:-	
Births: Comparability Factor	1.19
Deaths	0.82

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-	
Number	127
Rate per 1,000 population	11.3
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	13.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	6%
Still Births:-	
Number	3
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	23
Total Live and Still Births	130
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates:-	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	16
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	8
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	125
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	8
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	31
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion):	
Number of Deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	0
Deaths	173
Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	12.6

## POPULATION FIGURES SINCE 1950

	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1950	9038	161	100
1951	9207	124	117
1952	9141	137	108
1953	9063	133	94
1954	9050	116	89
1955	9030	115	95
1956	8920	118	104

	Population	Live Births	Deaths
1957	8850	141	84
1958	8840	125	95
1959	8800	116	113
1960	8780	114	111
1961	8220	126	98
1962	8400	135	93
1963	8410	116	93
1964	8430	124	94
1965	8430	132	100
1966	8410	129	92
1967	11350	162	162
1968	11310	161	158
1969	11210	127	173

#### BIRTHS

During the year there were 127 live births in the Rural Area as compared with 161 in 1968. There were 65 males and 62 female births.

#### LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	60	59	119
Illegitimate	5	3	8
		Total:	<u>127</u>

#### STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1
		Total:	<u>3</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births 23

#### DEATHS

During the year there were 173 deaths, of which 91 were males and 82 females.

The following table gives the Causes of Death:-

	M.	F.	Total
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	0	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	0	1
" " Stomach	2	0	2
" " Intestine	1	3	4
" " Lung, Bronchus	3	2	5
" " Breast	0	2	2

	M.	F.	Total
Malignant Neoplasn, Uterus	-	3	3
Leukaemia	1	0	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	7	10
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	0	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous system etc.	0	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	2	2
Hypertensive Disease	4	2	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	28	7	35
Other forms of Heart Disease	8	14	22
Cerebrovascular disease	5	16	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	5	11
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	7	3	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	0	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	3	0	3
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	0	1	1
	<u>91</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>173</u>

#### DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS:-

Under 4 weeks	1	35 - 44 years	4
4 weeks - 1 year	1	45 - 54 "	12
1 - 4 years	0	55 - 64 "	17
5 - 14 "	1	65 - 74 "	38
15 - 24 "	0	75+ "	89
25 - 34 "	0		

#### INFANT MORTALITY RATE

During the year two infants died under the age of 1 year giving an Infant Mortality rate of 16.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths were attributable to childbirth during the year.

#### CANCER DEATHS

There were 28 deaths due to Cancer during the year as compared with 26 for the previous year. There were 5 deaths due to lung cancer.



	M.	F.	Total
Oesophagus	1	0	1
Intestine	1	3	4
Stomach Cancer	2	0	2
Lung and Bronchus Cancer	3	2	5
Breast	0	2	2
Uterus	0	3	3
Other Cancers	3	7	10
Leukaemia	1	0	1

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT (SECTION 47)

No cases were dealt with under this Act during the year.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 8 infectious disease notifications were received of which 5 were measles, 3 whooping coughs. There were no notifications for Tuberculosis. No instances of food poisoning were reported.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

##### TUBERCULOSIS

The Mass X-ray Unit visits Tuly Street, Barnstaple, on alternate Wednesday evenings and its service is available to the general public between the hours of 4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

##### GENERAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in South Molton, serves the town and the surrounding district.

The North Devon Infirmary, at Barnstaple, also serves the area, and provides Specialists' services.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford. There are 18 beds available for treatment of infectious diseases.

##### SMALLPOX

All Smallpox cases will be sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital. Plymouth Ambulance Service will provide transport; telephone No. Plymouth 64101.

##### CHEST CLINICS

These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Below is a table giving the days and times of attendance.



Tuesday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. )	
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m. )	Clinic and X-Ray
Thursday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m. )	Examinations
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m. )	
Friday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)	A. P. Refills
	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.)	

#### V.D. CLINICS

These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Times and days are as below for the sessions:

Females	Monday 4.00 p.m.	Thursday 4.30 p.m.
Males	Monday 5.15 p.m.	Thursday 5.45 p.m.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES

There are 2 District Nurse/Midwives in the area.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The main Laboratory is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out there. The service is extremely valuable, and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

#### GENERAL PRACTITIONER CLINIC

The Devon County Council Health Centre at East Street South Molton, was opened last year. The following sessions are held at the Centre:

Ante Natal Clinic	Wednesday	By Appointment
Child Health	Thursday	2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Chiropody	Monday	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
		3rd, 4th and 5th Wed.
Ophthalmic		By Appointment
Speech Therapy		All Day altn. Fridays
Dental		2nd and 4th Thurs.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Under the scheme, an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the ambulance service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

#### JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE - ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE

This centre provides training facilities for mentally handicapped children between the ages of 5 and 16. Hostel accommodation is also provided for children who may live some distance away from the centre.

#### ADULT TRAINING CENTRE

A new adult training centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

I wish to thank the Clerk and the Public Health Inspector for the help they have given me during the year.

E. WILLIAMS  
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND  
SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the Year ended 31st December 1969.

8 East Street  
South Molton

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work  
carried out during 1969.

During the year 3770 visits and inspections were made  
including:-

Public Health

Building Regulations	654
Caravans and Camping Sites	36
Disinfections and Disinfestations	-
Drains Inspected and Tested	157
General	61
Infectious Disease	-
Nuisances	32
Refuse Collection and Disposal	30
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	217
Water Supplies	93
Water Samples	25
Town and Country Planning Acts	151
Food and Drugs - General	30
Meat and Food Inspection (excluding poultry)	424
Factories - With Power	11
Without Power	5
Housing - Slum Clearance, Housing Acts, Rent Act	71
Council Houses in Course of erection, Housing Sites and Council House Supervision etc.	890
Improvement Grants	171
Petroleum Regulations	61
Interviews - Owners, Builders etc.	351
Public Conveniences	23
Waste Foods	2
Miscellaneous	150
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	74
Swimming Baths	51
	<hr/>
	3770



# WATER

	No of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No of Houses supplied by standpipe on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Anstey East	30	77	-	-
Anstey West	34	62	1	2
Bishopsnynpton	163	382	1	-
Buckland East	16	30	-	-
Buckland West	58	168	-	-
Burrington	63	200	-	-
Charles (Brayford)	40	121	-	-
Chittlehanholt	54	161	-	-
Chittlehampton	187	676	-	-
Cheldon	1	4	-	-
Chulmleigh	345	900	2	8
Creacombe	2	3	-	-
Filleigh	53	145	-	-
Georgenynpton	38	118	-	-
Kingsnynpton	82	223	1	3
Knowstone	32	90	-	-
Mariansleigh	57	138	-	-
Meshaw	34	87	-	-
Molland	3	3	-	-
North Molton	255	742	3	8
Queensnynpton	4	14	-	-
Rackenford	64	178	-	-
Romansleigh	22	73	-	-
Rose Ash	55	146	-	-
Satterleigh and Warkleigh	22	57	-	-
South Molton	1134	2915	-	-
Witheridge	247	694	4	13
Worlington East	69	243	-	-

25 samples of Private Supplies were taken with the results as shown:-

	Chemical	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	-	16
Unsatisfactory	-	9

2 Bacteriological Samples of Public Supplies were taken and reported as satisfactory.

Where the private Water Supplies were found to be unsatisfactory informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found, in many cases, in conjunction with the Drainage and Water Supplies Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Romansleigh sewerage scheme is still deferred owing to financial restrictions.

Burrington sewerage scheme was re-submitted to the Ministry for approval. A visit was made by an Engineering Inspector in November and a decision is awaited.

The preparation of schemes for Witheridge, Brayford and Alswear sewerage were still awaited from the Consulting Engineers.

A sub-committee was set up in September to consider making charges for the discharge of Trade Effluent to sewers.

The sewage works continue to be maintained by direct labour.

Investigations are in hand to ascertain the extent of surface water infiltration in sewers.

## HOUSING

During the year 40 houses were improved under the Standard Grant Scheme and 4 under the Discretionary Grant Scheme. 14 Council houses were erected during the year and 86 were under construction. Tenders were accepted at the end of the year for a further 12 council houses.

23 private houses were erected during the year.

## FOOD AND DRUGS

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:-

Bakehouses	8
Butchers' Shops	12
Cafes and Restaurants	5
Confectioners	11
Fish and Chip Shops	2
Fishmongers	1
Greengrocers	5
Grocers and Provision	
Dealers	49
Guest Houses	8
Public Houses, Hotels	36
Dairies	2

(b) Twenty-two premises are registered for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food.

Fifty-five premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.

Five premises are registered as dairies.

(c) All condemned food is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip under supervision.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations 1960.

Forty-one visits of inspection were made to food premises. Improvements and compliance with the regulations were secured.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Three licensed slaughterhouses continued in regular use during the year, all of them being satisfactorily maintained. The slaughterhouse at Witheridge closed in October and the licence has not been renewed. All meat killed was inspected and it was necessary to condemn 3 cwt. 1 qr. and 3 lbs. of carcase meat and 6 cwt. 3 qrs. and 4 lbs. of offal.

#### POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

Visits were made as necessary to the two poultry processing premises where some 500,000 hens are slaughtered. It was necessary to reject 3,045 birds (8773 lbs.) 3 tons. 18 cwt. 1 qr. and 7 lbs.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

#### DAIRIES

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

#### FACTORIES ACTS 1961

Two cases of insufficient or unsuitable sanitary conveniences were remedied, following informal action by the department.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).



Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	12	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	9	-	-
Total:	60	21	2	-

(2) Cases in which DEFECTS were found  
Section 1 - 4 Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	2	2	-	2	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Out-Work)  
Sections 133 and 134

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

Wearing)

Apparel)

Making

Etc. 7

-

-

-

-

-

Total: 7

-

-

-

-

-

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number Killed	537	1	1560	1552	Nil
Number Inspected	537	1	1560	1552	Nil
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All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	2	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	51	Nil	30	70	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.5	Nil	1.9	4.5	Nil
Tuberculosis only      Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	12	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	.77	Nil
Cysticercosis      Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil







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